

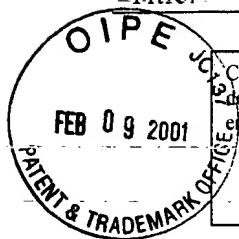
S/N 09/646,139

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Ishida et al.	Examiner:	Unknown
Serial No.:	09/646,139	Group Art Unit:	2651
Filed:	September 13, 2000	Docket No.:	10873.384USWO
Title:	MASTER INFORMATION CARRIER		

RECEIVED
FEB 13 2001
Technology Center 2600



CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this Transmittal Letter and the paper, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 7, 2001.

By: _____

Hicham-Bichane

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b))

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner. Applicants hereby bring attention to the Examiner that he has co-pending applications:

- Serial No. 09/555,583 (copy enclosed), filed June 1, 2000;
- ✓ Serial No. 09/101,590 (copy enclosed), filed July 13, 1998; and
- Serial No. 09/646,138 (copy enclosed), filed September 13, 2000.

The references cited were cited in the afore-mentioned case.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided.

A concise explanation of the relevance of each non-English language document or other information is as follows (37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)):

RECEIVED
FEB 16 2001
TC 1700 MAIL ROOM

The applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner that:

- EP 0 131 395 is an English equivalent of JP 60-22733 ✓
- EP 0 915 456 is an English equivalent of JP 10-40544 and JP 10-269566
- GB 2 164 483 is an English equivalent of JP 61-66215 ✓
- US 4,422,106 is an English equivalent of JP 56-7243 and JP 56-41528
- US 4,525,828 is an English equivalent of JP 57-158004
- US 5,303,092 is an English equivalent of JP 3-256223.
- A partial English translation is provided for JP 51-25723, JP 49-5610, and JP 48-53704. ✓

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

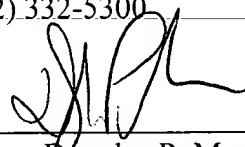
Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: February 7, 2001

By



Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300

D. Mueller/tvm/hb